

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Planning Policy](#)  
**Subject:** Draft local plan 2040  
**Date:** 01 April 2024 19:45:31

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly oppose the Test Valley Borough Draft Local Plan 2040.

The proposed site of Velmore Farm for the allocation of 1,070 homes and 2.2 hectares for employment use will have the following negative impact on the area:

1. Breach of the local gap - the land effectively adjoins Valley Park, which means that Valley Park residents lose green space between this area and North Baddesley/Chilworth. As a resident of Valley Park, I and many other Local residents, regularly use the area to exercise or take a walk and by building on Velmore Farm you effectively take away the green views on one side of the road. This will have a negative impact on mental health. Your current plan also shows no intention of keeping local areas separate, which goes against Test Valley Policy E3 on maintaining local gaps.
2. Destruction of Local habitats and negative impact on wildlife - the area opposite Velmore Farm (on the other side of Castle Lane) is an area containing woods and meadow type land which has varied wildlife, including protected bird species, such as Night Jars, alongside deers, owls and other raptors. By building on an area of such close proximity, you will most definitely be disturbing an area where the wildlife also visit. I have seen deers and squirrels across both sides of the road and raptors hunt over the Velmore Farm fields. This will not be able to happen if the proposed development takes place. This would drastically impact the wildlife.
3. Traffic impact - assuming that there will be at least two cars per household, this would mean an additional 2000 (or more) vehicles driving onto Templars Way, Castle Lane and other local roads. These roads are already seriously gridlocked by queues of traffic at peak times and also when there is a motorway incident on the M27 and M3. When a motorway accident occurs, cars use the local roads to find an alternative route, which can bring the whole area to a standstill. Adding an additional 2000 cars, will cause even more disruption. Motorway incidents happen quite often, so this development will add to the traffic issues.
4. Local health services - at the moment it is very difficult to get appointments for both the doctors and dentists because the Valley Park facilities are shared with both North Baddesley and Chandler's Ford. By adding more than 1000 additional houses at Velmore Farm these vital services will be even further overstretched and it will be more difficult to get an appointment.
5. Local flooding - the soil in the local area is clay based and during heavy rain Templars Way, School Lane and Castle Lane already become frequently flood. If you allow the building on Velmore Farm, which is higher than Valley Park, the flooding will worsen. This will only grow worse as climate change continues because we now have heavier rainfalls.
6. History of area and risk to archaeology - as a history graduate and with an interest in local history, it concerns me that despite a roman road running through Velmore Farm, any

building works are being considered without a full archaeology study being carried out. The correct conservation and historical bodies should be consulted on this before any further developments are considered because it's likely that the area is of significant historical importance.

7. Infrastructure - the plan does not provide enough infrastructure for the proposed additional population. This area is not near enough to a town, to provide the much needed infrastructure, especially with the development of housing at Hoe Lane in North Baddesley and the future development in Whitenap, Romsey, and the massive amount of housing which has already been developed in Chestnut Avenue in Eastleigh. The area already seems overdeveloped and this will not help in providing vital services, such as education places. Nursery shortages have been in the news just this week because of the introduction of funded places for children aged 2 and above. This development will not help with these issues. It will also take away from the towns in the area instead of improving the economic activity in the smaller towns, which are already struggling. Isn't it better that new developments are put within walking distance of towns so that people walk more and the environmental impact is lessened?

8. Danger from overhead electric pylons - there are electricity pylons that go straight across the land at Velmore Park. It is now recommended that homes should not be built under or close to electricity pylons.

I would strongly urge you to consider all my above points and not build on the Velmore Farm area.

Yours sincerely,  
Sarah Edwards (Mrs)